Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method to gauge and control churn of a project, comprising:

determining an estimated project churn, wherein project churn includes any identifiable and unplanned changes to a scope of the project;

collecting heuristic information on each task of the project requiring rework or modification in response to any potential project changes for determining the estimated project churn, wherein collecting heuristic information comprises at least one of:

collecting a time to complete a same or a similar task in another project;

sampling a plurality of times to complete the same or similar task in a plurality of other projects; and

surveying a plurality of experienced project managers to provide an estimated time requirement to complete the task; ~~and~~

entering at least optimistic, pessimistic and expected time requirements for reworking or modifying each task of the project requiring rework or modification in response to any potential project changes; and

allocating resources in response to the estimated project churn.

2. Canceled

3. Canceled

4. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising performing a weighted average duration analysis for each task of the project requiring rework or modification in response to any potential project changes.

5. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising determining an average time requirement to rework or modify each task of the project requiring rework or modification in response to any potential project changes.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein determining the average time requirement comprises averaging at least an optimistic, pessimistic and expected time requirement to rework or modify each task of the project requiring rework or modification in response to any potential project changes.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6, further comprising entering a weight factor for each optimistic, pessimistic and expected time requirement.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7, further comprising performing a weighted average duration analysis on the average time requirement for each task of the project requiring rework or modification in response to any potential project changes.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8, further comprising determining an impact to the project in response to the weighted average duration analysis.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising tracking reworked tasks and time duration to complete each reworked task during the course of the project.

11. (Previously Amended) A method to gauge and control churn of a project, comprising:

entering a project-specific task list;

entering at least optimistic, pessimistic and expected time requirements to rework or modify each task of the project requiring rework or modification in response to any potential project changes;

collecting heuristic information on each task of the project to determine the optimistic, pessimistic and expected time requirement to rework or modify each task of the project requiring rework or modification in response to any potential project changes, wherein collecting heuristic information comprises at least one of:

collecting a time to complete a same or a similar task in another project;

sampling a plurality of times to complete the same or similar task in a plurality of other projects;

surveying a plurality of experienced project managers to provide an estimated time requirement to complete the task;

entering a weighting factor for each of the optimistic, pessimistic and expected time requirements to perform a weighted average duration analysis;

determining an average time requirement to rework or modify each task requiring rework or modification in response to any potential project changes;

performing the weighted average duration analysis on any tasks requiring rework or modification in response to any potential project changes;

determining an impact to the project in response to the weighted average duration analysis; and

presenting the impact to a user.

12. Canceled

13. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein performing the weighted average duration analysis comprises performing a program evaluation and review technique (PERT).

14. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein determining the impact to the project comprises totaling times for all affected tasks from the weighted average duration analysis.

15. (Original) The method of claim 11, further comprising allocating resources in response to the impact to the project.

16. (Original) The method of claim 11, further comprising tracking reworked tasks and time duration to complete each reworked task during the course of the project.

17. (Original) The method of claim 11, further comprising presenting the impact to the project to provide an early warning.

18. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein entering the project-specific tasks comprises generating a graphical user interface for a user to enter the tasks.

19. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein entering the at least optimistic, pessimistic and expected time requirements comprises generating a graphical user interface for a user to enter the time requirements.

20. Canceled

21. (Currently Amended) A system to gauge and control churn of a project, comprising:

an input device to enter heuristic information on each task of a project requiring rework or modification in response to any potential project changes, wherein the heuristic information comprises:

time to complete a same or a similar task in another project;

a sampling of a plurality of times to complete the same or similar task in a plurality of other projects; and

a survey a plurality of experienced project managers to provide an estimated time requirement to complete the task; and

a user interface generator to generate a graphical user interface displayable to a user to enter at least optimistic, pessimistic and expected time requirements for reworking or modifying each task of the project requiring rework or modification in response to any potential project changes;

a processor; ~~and~~

an analysis program operable on the processor to determine an impact to the project in response to any potential project changes using the heuristic information, wherein the analysis program is adapted to utilize the at least ~~an~~ optimistic, pessimistic and expected time requirements for each task of the project and a weighting factor for each of the at least optimistic, pessimistic and expected time requirements to determine the impact to the project; and

an output device to present the impact to a user.

22. (Original) The system of claim 21, further comprising a display to present graphical user interfaces for entering the heuristic information and other information.

23. (Original) The system of claim 22, further comprising a user interface generator to generate a graphical user interface displayable to a user on the display to enter a project-specific task list.

24. Canceled

25. (Currently Amended) The system of claim ~~24~~ 21, wherein the user interface generator is adapted to generate a graphical user interface to enter the weighting factor for each of the at least optimistic, pessimistic and expected time requirements to perform a weighted average duration analysis.

26. (Original) The system of claim 21, wherein the analysis program comprises a weighted average duration analysis program.

27. (Original) The system of claim 26, wherein the analysis program comprises a programmed evaluation and review technique (PERT).

28. Canceled.

29. (Original) The system of claim 21, further comprising means to track reworked tasks and time duration to complete each reworked task during the course of the project.

30. (Original) The system of claim 21, further comprising means to allocate resources in response to the impact to the project.

31.-35. Canceled

36. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium encoded with computer-executable instructions for performing a method, wherein the computer-readable medium is one of an electronic, optical, electromagnetic, infrared or semiconductor system, the method comprising:

determining an estimated project churn, wherein project churn includes any identifiable and unplanned changes to a scope of the project;

collecting heuristic information on each task of the project requiring rework or modification in response to any potential project changes for determining the estimated project churn, wherein collecting heuristic information comprises at least one of:

collecting a time to complete a same or a similar task in another project;

sampling a plurality of times to complete the same or similar task in a plurality of other projects; and

surveying a plurality of experienced project managers to provide an estimated time requirement to complete the task; ~~and~~

entering at least optimistic, pessimistic and expected time requirements for reworking or modifying each task of the project requiring rework or modification in response to any potential project changes; and

allocating resources in response to the estimated project churn.

37. Canceled

38. Canceled

39. (Previously Amended) The computer-readable medium encoded with computer executable instructions for performing the method of claim 36, further comprising performing a weighted average duration analysis for each task of the project requiring rework or modification in response to any potential project changes.

40. (Previously Amended) The computer-readable medium encoded with computer executable instructions for performing the method of claim 36, further comprising determining an average time requirement to rework or modify each task of the project requiring rework or modification in response to any potential project changes.

41. (Previously Amended) The computer-readable medium encoded with computer executable instructions for performing the method of claim 36, wherein determining the average time requirement comprises averaging at least an optimistic, pessimistic and expected time requirement to rework or modify each task of the project requiring rework or modification in response to any potential project changes.

42. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium encoded with computer executable instructions for performing the method of claim 41, further comprising entering a weight factor for each optimistic, pessimistic and expected time requirement.

43. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium encoded with computer executable instructions for performing the method of claim 42, further comprising performing a weighted average duration analysis on the average time requirement for each task of the project requiring rework or modification in response to any potential project changes.

44. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium encoded with computer executable instructions for performing the method of claim 36, further comprising generating a graphical user interface for a user to enter a project-specific task list.

45. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium encoded with computer executable instructions for performing the method of claim 36, further comprising generating a graphical user interface for a user to enter at least optimistic, pessimistic and expected time requirements to rework or modify each task of the project requiring rework or modification in response to any potential project changes.

46. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium encoded with computer executable instructions for performing the method of claim 45, further comprising generating a graphical user interface for a user to enter a weight factor for each optimistic, pessimistic and expected time requirement.